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ASHBOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of
Health for the year ended December 31st
1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashbourne Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

In the Report for the year 1941 there are still certain restrictions and limitations to be observed, and many particulars which have not changed during the year will again be omitted.

The area of the district is 1,075 acres land and water. The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 1554, no houses having been erected during the year 1941.

The rateable value of the district is £31,191, and the sum produced by a penny rate is £124.

Vital Statistics.

The number of Births in 1941 was 75, 40 male and 35 female, as compared with a total of 85 in 1940, and only 58 in 1939. There were 7 illegitimate births (3 male and 4 female), one less than in the previous year but 4 more than in 1939, and 5 more than in 1938.

The number of Deaths in 1941 was 52, equally divided between males and females. For the previous three years the number of deaths did not fall below 70. There were 18 deaths of persons over 70, of whom 7 were over 80, and 2 over 90.

Infant Mortality.

Four children under the age of one year died in 1941, all of them males, and all legitimate.

The causes of death in the 4 children who died in the Urban District of Ashbourne were given as Intra-cranial hemorrhage, whooping cough with pneumonia, spinabifida and dystocia (coroner's P.M. without Inquest)

Heart Disease was again the commonest cause of death, though only half the number there were in 1940. In 1941 there were 9 cases, 3 males and 6 females, and no deaths from any other disease of the circulatory system.

I am glad to be able to report that the number of deaths from cancer, which was at its highest point in 1940, has fallen from 11 to 6 cases - 2 males and 4 females.

There was only one death from Respiratory diseases - a male from pneumonia, as compared with 3 in 1940. Tuberculosis also was the cause of one death, but influenza caused 3. There was only one death from zymotic disease viz. a child from whooping cough, which is very satisfactory considering the number of cases of whooping cough and measles which occurred in the district throughout the year.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 4 cases of scarlet fever during the year, one in August, 2 in the same family in October, and one in November, all mild and easily dealt with. There was one case of Paratyphoid in November occurring on the edge of the new aerodrome on Derby Road, a very mild case. But there were fairly extensive outbreaks of both measles and whooping cough. Measles had already begun at the end of 1940. There were 174 cases, the last of which occurred at the beginning of August. There had been no epidemic of measles for several years, so that there were a large number of susceptible children; a large proportion of the cases occurred below the age of 5.

Infectious Disease - Continued.

The outbreak of whooping cough began at the end of February and was still unfinished at the end of the year 1941, during which there were 110 cases, of which only one child died.

In June and July Anti-Diphtheria immunisation was offered free of charge by your Council, and 577 children were, with the consent of their parents, immunised with Diphtheria Prophylactic A.P.T., two doses being given at intervals of a month. Since that time a number of additional children have been immunised singly or in batches of 2 or 3, and at the present time (June 1942) I am engaged with the inoculation of about 50 others who have been brought by their parents or foster-parents. It is very gratifying to be able to report that not a single case of diphtheria has been notified since the immunisation began, the only case reported in 1941 having occurred in May.

Comparative Table of Infectious Diseases
during the five years ending 31st December
1941.

	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.
Scarlet fever	4	4	50	45	7
Diphtheria	1	34	5	9	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	2	1	2
Pneumonia	9	16	6	6	6
Measles	174	13	0	not notifiable.	
Whooping Cough	110	0	4	not notifiable.	

Water Supply.

In the Derby Road area extensions of water mains were carried out to supply Government contracts.

The main source of water supply is the same as in previous years, no changes or extensions having been carried out at the Pumping Station.

The yield of the boreholes has remained constant during the year, but consumption has considerably increased.

Chlorinating plant has been installed at the Waterworks during the year, the chloramine process being used.

The rainfall was 31.48 inches in 1941 as compared with 31.82 in 1940.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Extensions to sewers have been carried out to take the sewage from Government property.

Extensions to the sewage Disposal Works have been commenced.

Legislation.

No new Legislation or byelaws affecting public health came into force during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

The Henmore Brook has been regularly inspected for any source of pollution, and action taken when necessary.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse is regularly collected from all parts of the district weekly and is disposed of in a refuse destructor.

Tins, rags, bones, bottles, rubber and metal are sorted from the refuse for salvage.

Meat Inspection.

The Inspection of all carcasses killed at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses is carried out weekly by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Ernest A. Sadler.
Medical Officer of Health.

10th June 1942.